

Chairman's Update



Conservation Chronicle



By Ed Harvey

I hope everyone is having a good summer. Although summer is normally a fairly down time in the Congress' year, many of our delegates have been busy. Obviously, all of the people working on this edition of the Conservation Chronicle have been busy. Special thanks go to Lee Fahrney and Kari Lee-Zimmermann for taking the lead and ramroding it for us. Rob, Rich, Kari and I con-

tinue to fine tune the committee assignments, even as some of the committees are beginning to meet.

The deer research project has had two kick-off meetings. One was in Ladysmith and one was in Clintonville. Thanks to all of you who are working on that project. The Congress was well represented at the meetings. I would like to especially thank Mike Riggle, Tony Janecek, and Kevin Marquette. Those three have accepted leadership roles for the Congress' involvement in the project. Over the first weekend in July, we had a good turnout of delegates to work at the Department's booth at "Deer Fest" in Oshkosh. The booth promoted, and distributed information about the research project.

All of this public exposure is important. A few days after our annual conven-

tion, the Governor vetoed the Bear Bill. In his veto letter to the legislature, he gave a great deal of credit to the Spring Hearings vote, and to the Congress. He specifically cited the letters that you wrote at the convention, and which he received shortly thereafter. This was the close of a year during which the Congress had unusual influence in the department, and within the legislature. We need to work to maintain that level of trust. To do that, we need to continue to work closely with the department, and the legislature, and we need to continue to be productive partners for them.

Our low spring hearing attendance (4,360) was a disappointment this year. If a legislative hearing is attended by a few hundred, it is considered a huge

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Volunteers needed for deer research effort

By Lee Fahrney

OSHKOSH – "Volunteers will be critical," said Chris Jacques, Department of Natural Resources Deer Research Scientist who will supervise the White-tailed Deer Research Project now in its initial stages of implementation.

"The field effort alone is too big," he said. "We'll be capturing hundreds, if not thousands, of deer."

Jacques and other DNR staff and Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates were explaining the program and signing up volunteers at Deerfest held last weekend at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds in Oshkosh.

"We signed up about 15 people on Saturday alone,"

said Conservation Congress Delegate Tony Janecek. "We'll need all we can get," he added.

At \$2 million, this will be one of the greatest investments ever made in deer research efforts in Wisconsin, according to a DNR weekly news article. Funding for the study comes via the Federal Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Roberts). Other partners in the project include the UW-Madison, Whitetails Unlimited and UW-Stevens Point.

The study has a two-fold purpose:

First, estimate the survival rate of bucks and what portion of bucks are harvested by hunters. The goal is to make

herd estimates more accurate, thus responding to complaints that have plagued game managers in recent years. The study will look at such factors as hunting, predation, vehicle collisions and harsh weather to determine what percentage of deaths can be attributed to each cause.

Second, determine the impact of predation, winter weather conditions, and habitat on fawn recruitment.

The research effort will occur in two areas, one in the Northern Forest and the other referred to as the Eastern Farmland area. The northernmost area includes Deer Management Units 13, 14, 18, 19 and 20 while

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Youth Conservation Congress Update

By Lee Fahrney

Plans are under way to take a bold new direction for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress by establishing a Youth Conservation Congress with a target date for implementation of School Year 2011-2012. Based on the vote taken at the 2009 Spring Hearings on this Natural Resources Board resolution, Wisconsin's hunters, anglers and trappers approve of the initiative by a margin of 4377-1637.

There is much work to be done, however. While the resolution was sent to the Outdoor Heritage and Education Study Committee, it will take a concerted effort by every county delegation in the state to add this initiative to the distinguished legacy of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

Here's the first step. Delegates having ideas on the organizational structure, objec-



tives and general operating procedures are invited to make input to Outdoor Heritage prior to its August 28 meeting. The committee will be discussing the issue based on the following considerations:

- Age/Grade level of delegate(s)
 - Length of term
 - Number of delegates
 - Geographical representation
 - School involvement
 - DNR involvement
 - Eligibility (student groups, members of local conservation orgs, etc.)
 - Selection Process (who, what, where, when, how)
 - Cost Estimates (convention, other activities (student/parent, WCC, sponsoring org, district)
 - Delegate Responsibilities (attend district meetings, state convention, study committee assignment, etc.)
 - Voting rights
 - Chaperones/Supervision
- Possible Timeline:

- August, 2010: Outdoor Heritage Committee, discussion item, establish subcommittee.
- January, 2011: Executive Council finalizes/approves application process/ operating procedures.
- February, 2011: Application form/ procedures included in Conservation Chronicle.
- Spring 2011: District meetings, discussion item.
- April 30, 2011: Applications due to Outdoor Heritage
- May, June 2011: Executive Council approves selection of delegates to WYCC for School Year 2011-2012.

Send recommendations by **August 15** to:

Lee Fahrney, Chair
Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee
7860 McKenna Road
Hollandale, WI 53544
(608) 967-2208
fiveoaks@mhtc.net

Congress Delegates Lead the Way

If there is any doubt about who takes first prize for promoting our outdoor heritage, all one must do is look around to see Conservation Congress members involved in a big way in every corner of the state. In addition to countless hours volunteered as hunter safety instructors and various outreach programs such as Learn-to-Hunt, delegates from several counties actively promote and organize events catering to our youth. Here are a few examples.

In Lafayette County, Steve Staver, Mike Gould, Paul Mau, Dave Breunig and Wayne Stietz helped with an Earth Day event involving 4th graders from every school in the county. Staver entertained at the Congress Wall of Fame while Breunig helped organize the BB gun instruction. Stietz demonstrated woodcutting techniques with his portable saw mill and Gould and Mau taught the basics of bait casting. This event has enjoyed Conservation Congress support during its entire 25 year history.

In Medford, more than 300 kids from Price and Taylor counties attended the 3rd Annual Taylor County Outdoor Youth

Expo. Price County Delegate Dave Mabie was a hit with his new litter of Plott hound pups, GPS demonstration and lots of anecdotes about bears and bear hunting while Mike Riggle was involved in the overall planning of the event. Other Congress delegates volunteering were Kurt Staab and Gene Knoll.

More than 80 kids took part in the 1st Annual Angler Education Day at Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area in Iowa County. The event would not have moved forward without the efforts of Grant County delegate Dave Fritz and delegates Steve Holmes and Mike Dreischmeier from Iowa County.

And in the mother of all youth events, the 5th Annual Outdoor Education Expo held at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Beaver Dam once again drew more than 3,000 fourth & fifth grade students.

As in the past, Dodge County Chair Dale Maas spearheaded the Conservation Congress effort at the local level to bring this highly successful event to fruition. Other delegates involved included Todd Cook,



Dave Mabie poses with youth and his litter of Plott hound pups at the Annual Taylor County Outdoor Expo. Photo by Lee Fahrney

Scott Strook, Scott Zimmerman, Rick Swenson, Scott McAuley, Dan Carroll and Jim Burmeister. While Harold Drake was unable to assist this year due to health problems, he made a generous \$250 cash contribution to the event.

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Hunters Network Promotes Mentorship

From the Hunters Network Executive Summary

The Hunters Network of Wisconsin seeks strategies for preserving Wisconsin's hunting heritage through mentorship activities, according to its Executive Summary.

Here is part of the blueprint for actively engaging in mentoring new hunters, perhaps our most noble endeavor as sportsmen and women.

It takes a hunter to make a hunter:

Many of today's hunters learned about hunting at a very young age through family hunts, perhaps grabbing an old single shot .22 and heading out to a farm woodlot for small game. Unfortunately, much of our population is now two or three generations removed from a rural lifestyle. So offering to take a newcomer out in the field through a program like Learn to Hunt or merely asking a neighborhood

youngster to go along with you next time may be the biggest contribution you can make to the sport.

Seize opportunities to go beyond technical skills:

Emphasize the valuable contributions hunters make to the environment and the economy, the harvest of nutritious food and the importance of time spent in the outdoors. Mentors play a role by helping new hunters understand they are part of passing on the legacy.

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DNR Hosts Hunting Heritage Conference

Condensed from event summary by Randy Stark

Rothschild, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources hosted its first annual Hunting Heritage Conference in Rothschild, Feb. 19-20. Participants included 49 Wisconsin conservation groups plus the Minnesota DNR, Great Lakes Indian Fish Wildlife Commission and the founding members of the Wisconsin Hmong American Conservation Club.

The primary goals of the conference were to facilitate hunter recruitment and retention, to share ideas between individuals and organizations, and to explore best practices for mentoring and hosting successful Learn to Hunt programs. All individuals in attendance were mentors in the past or were interested in learning how to become a mentor in a LTH program.

North Country Trail Association Executive Director Bruce Matthews was the keynote speaker on Friday night. He challenged the audience to rethink how we market participation in hunting and to re-examine how we define ourselves as hunters by de-emphasizing the trophy mentality and emphasizing other aspects of the tradition.

Connecting with the outdoors, exercise, quality time with family and friends, stress reduction and wild meat as a source of low-fat protein are all part of the heritage, Matthews stressed. He also urged participants to create a "bigger tent" to develop a more diverse and inclusive hunting community, regardless of ethnicity, background, beliefs or ideals.

On Saturday, Dr. Bob Holsman spoke to the group about his planned research on the effectiveness of the Learn to Hunt Program as a recruitment tool. He and an assistant will conduct follow-up interviews with former participants in the program to determine if they continue to hunt, and whether their decision to hunt or not hunt is connected to LTH.

Dr. Holsman also described factors contributing to the decline in the number of

ers, mentors and youth with information about mentored hunting and Learn to Hunt events.

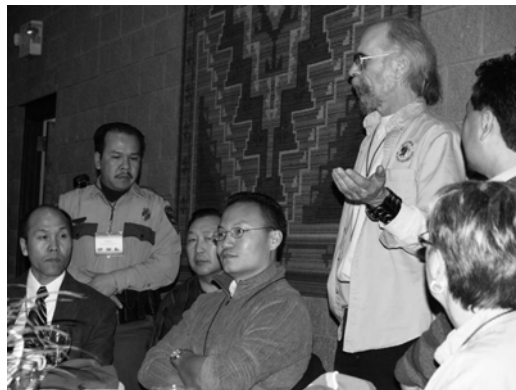
The Network also provides a forum where new hunters and their mentors can share their hunting experiences and connect with others to share ideas and their interest in hunting.

Dr. Shaw is currently developing content for a website and online social media that will include a brief entitled "Hunting in Wisconsin: Promoting Hunter Recruitment and Retention: 11 Ways to Preserve Wisconsin's Hunting Heritage."

Ben Mott, then Learn to Hunt Coordinator for the DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement provided an update on the number of Learn to Hunt Programs during the past three years. He discussed the use of the Turkey Settlement Fund which will provide reimbursement of \$25 for each participant in the program to help offset costs to local groups. Mott covered paperwork requirements and stressed the importance of it for conducting research and evaluating the program.

The afternoon program included four species-specific breakout sessions, including deer, turkey, bear and small game (pheasant, squirrel, rabbit and dove). The sessions offered an opportunity to exchange ideas that have worked well during past LTH events and to answer questions from individuals who might want to create an event in their locales.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation provided the financial assistance necessary to conduct the conference.



Former Wisconsin Wildlife Federation President Corky Meyer meets with members of the Hmong American Conservation Club at the Hunting Heritage Conference in Rothschild, Feb. 19-20. DNR photo

hunters, including urbanization, demographic changes, barriers and competition. One of the major ingredients necessary for causing someone to begin hunting, he said, is a social support system for new hunters.

Dr. Brett Shaw also spoke to the group on Saturday regarding social networking and its importance to the future of hunting. The project is called Hunter's Network of Wisconsin (see "Hunters" above) which uses online technology to provide new hunt-

The Pursuit of Wisconsin's State Fish

By Roger Sabota

A recent early June afternoon found us in a boat on an Oneida County lake casting for muskies. After casting for nearly a half hour our son, Craig, broke the silence of the afternoon with the observation that there were three generations of our family fishing for the greatest trophy of fresh water fishing. Craig's eleven-year-old son, Jack, was in the rear of the boat while I was controlling the boat from the bow.

We started talking with Jack about this frustrating sport called musky fishing. My Dad, Grandpa Tuffy, started me in the pursuit of this sought after trophy 56 years ago. Dad fished up until his passing some 26 years ago and left the fire burning in me as well as Craig. Our goal was to provide the opportunity for Jack to catch the fever at an early age. One year ago Jack caught and released his first legal musky. That fish was about 35 inches long and ate a bucktail at boat side while Jack worked the famed figure-eight.

The pursuit of muskies has changed dramatically over the past fifty-plus years. When I was being introduced to this sport we spent most of our fishing time on the famed Chippewa Flowage. This was well before the catch and release ethic took hold and any musky over 30-inches long was kept. In those days we stayed at Shady Nook Resort and whenever a legal musky was brought in the successful angler would ring the large Musky Bell once for every pound that the musky weighed. While out on the Flowage the Musky Bell could be heard for quite some distance. Frequently the ringing of the Musky Bell attracted a crowd to the resort where the successful angler was staying. The Musky Bells around the Flowage often contributed to the sale of fermented beverages.

The practice prior to 1966 for landing muskies was to tire the fish out and bring it to the boat with the fish's head above the surface of the water. Then, with the rod held high and the angler's thumb on the spool of the reel, a pistol was brought into play. The pistol was held perhaps a foot from the head of the musky and the fish was shot. After the musky was shot the fish usually made a short run and then it rolled over and was picked up with a gaff hook and lifted into the boat. After shooting a musky in the head it was difficult to

release the fish alive. The practice of shooting hooked muskies was outlawed in 1966.

Stories abound that originated from the era when most musky fishing boats had loaded pistols aboard. One frequently heard story describes a situation when an angler boated a nice sized musky. The story goes on to describe a situation where the fish started to move about on the floor of the boat. The excited angler emptied his pistol on the fish and through the bottom of the boat. More stories abound but you get the idea.

Several of the biggest changes in the sport of musky fishing are the increase in the number of muskies in our waters, many improvements in fishing equipment, electric positioning motors, an explosion in the variety of musky lures, larger, more comfortable boats and a huge increase in fishing pressure.

When we began my pursuit of the mighty musky we had four lures in our tackle box. We had a pike minnow, a daredevil, a surface bait called a bonette and a suick. Dad used a four-foot solid glass rod with a Pflueger reel spooled with a line that had to be dried each evening.

Our boat was a fourteen-foot cedar strip craft that leaked until it got soaked up, sealing the joints. This heavy, round bottom craft was powered by a five-horsepower engine. When we fished we would take turns on the oars. When there were three guys in the boat we would change positions each half hour, thus out of each hour and a half we would get to fish one hour and row for a half hour.

Even in those days the "Big Chip" was a well-known body of water among musky anglers. In spite of that fact during a mid-week day we would normally see only one or two other boats on the water.

From my perspective the most significant change in musky fishing is the increase in the number of legal sized and larger muskies in our waters today. The credit for this increase is due to the number of anglers who practice catch and release with muskies. Some estimates project that 90 percent of the legal sized muskies that are caught are released alive today. Also, with the assistance of the numerous musky clubs, some waters have benefited by aggressive stocking programs. Waters such as Petenwell and Green Bay are good examples of the success of this program.

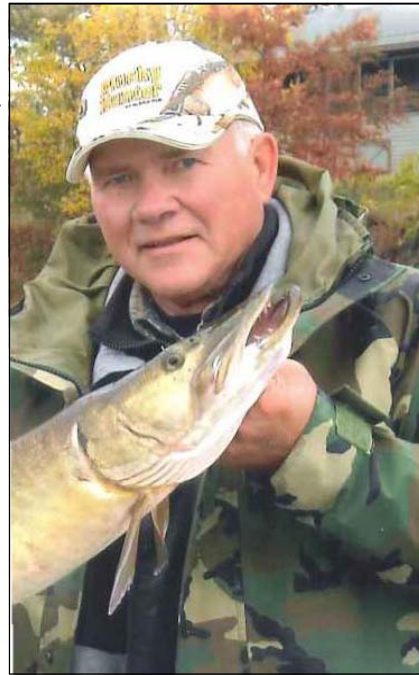
Fifty-plus years ago, when I was beginning the pursuit of muskies, an excellent angler who fished frequently may have caught 10 to 15 legal muskies in a season. Today some musky anglers are catching close to 100 muskies in a season. Part

of the reason for the large numbers of muskies caught is an increase in the amount of fishing knowledge available through seminars, magazines and DVD's. Another reason is the improvement in fishing equipment. Today the learning curve is smaller than it was just a decade ago.

It is my feeling that the sport of musky fishing will continue to expand and bring more attention to Wisconsin's state fish.

Sometimes I can't help but wonder what will musky fishing in Wisconsin look like when Jack is an adult? Will the average person still be able to go out in search of muskies when time permits? Will equipment continue to be improved? Will the World Record continue to be a Wisconsin fish?

The Good Old Days of musky fishing are today!



Roger Sabota is an avid outdoorsman, fishing and hunting guide, and long time Oneida County WCC delegate.

Chairman's Update...Continued from Page 1

demonstration of democracy. One of the special hearings which the department held on the zero quota archery season was attended by only one person. But, those arguments to justify a low turnout are only rationalizations. It is our job to hold large and meaningful hearings. The argument that "it doesn't pay to attend because they never listen to us anyway" was certainly disproven by the Bear Bill veto. We can build on that.

It has been suggested that we need to have more controversial questions on the questionnaire, like the dove question, or the feral cat question. That shouldn't be necessary. The Conservation Congress must come to be considered the most important asset of sportsmen and women, and conservationists in Wisconsin. Attendance should be considered a matter of duty. Only we can make citizens feel that way.

Level of attendance seems to be a county by county issue. It is not related to the size of the county, or its geographic

location. It is not related to its metropolitan or rural setting. The public simply needs to be engaged to come and discuss the issues, and to submit their ideas.

If you are in one of the counties in which attendance is low, or in which the entire hearing lasts only a few minutes, please talk to your hearing examiner over the summer, and lay out a course of action to bring people in. Perhaps a different hearing location is needed. Perhaps delegates and department people need to attend county alliance or local conservation club meetings specifically to discuss the hearings.

If you are in one of the counties with vacant delegate seats, work with your Congress county chairman to find and appoint a good delegate. If you have questions about this process, or would like help, please give us a call.

If you have any other ideas, I have a group who want to hear them. On three

occasions over the last twenty years, we have taken critical, organized looks at the way that we do business. Recommendations from these committees have been put in place on each of those occasions. These exercises are for the purpose of making the Congress better. They are not for the purpose of putting together a "here's why we're great" list. We are in the process of convening another such committee this summer. Larry Bonde will chair the Outreach Committee consisting of Dale Maas, Lee Fahrney, Rob Bohmann, and Rich Kirchmeyer. Natural Resources Board members Christine Thomas and John (Duke) Welter will assist the committee, along with Kurt Thiede who (by the good graces of his new boss Diane Brookbank) will act as the Department Liaison to this committee. Please get your lists of ideas, complaints, or pet peeves to any of the committee members, Kari, or myself.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can at your committee meetings. Let's have another great year.

Delegate Profile...Mike Riggle

A veterinarian by profession, Mike Riggle, now 57, has slipped into semi-retirement, with any excess time now dedicated to outside pursuits – either with his many volunteer activities, work on his 320 acre property in Taylor County or as an active member of the Conservation Congress.

"I decided it's time to give something back to the community," he said.

And he has – in a big way. A delegate since 2000, Mike has served three terms on the Executive Council, chairs the CWD Ad Hoc Committee and serves on the Big Game Study Committee.

Mike also serves on the Ad Hoc Deer 2000 committee now working on such projects as the White-tailed Deer Research Project. (see "Volunteers" page 1).

His veterinary skills will be put to good use with the project currently underway in two areas of north and eastern Wisconsin. Mike is spearheading the effort in the northern forest area, working with other Congress delegates and the DNR to conduct the study.

One innovative method has volunteers and DNR staff capture and vaginally implant radio

transmitters in does. According to the plan, the transmitters will be expelled during the birth of fawn. Researchers will then find, tag and attach a transmitter that will monitor the fawn's survival status and movements of the fawn and its mother.

Locally, Mike has done it all with the Taylor County Sportsman's Club – president, vice president and treasurer. Due in part to his leadership, the Sportsman's Club has become one of the most active and financially well-heeled organizations of its type in Wisconsin. So much so, that the group can afford to hire a part time youth coordinator.

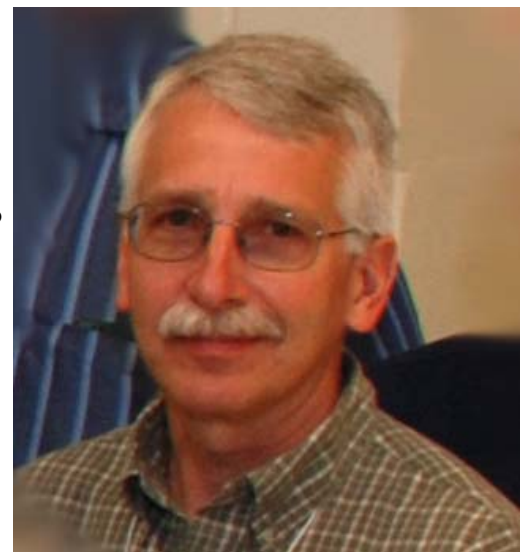
As a powerful testament to the group's success, the Sportsman's Club has sponsored a Youth Outdoor Expo for the past three years, drawing more than 350 students, teachers and chaperones to the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford in May of each year.

When not working on behalf of his community and the Congress, Mike enjoys a multitude of "minor" projects on his land, including the processing

of more than 100 gallons of maple syrup each year from approximately 600 maple trees gracing his property.

Perhaps most gratifying, however, is time spent hunting the northern forest with his two Llewellyn Setters, Morgan and Odie.

Mike and wife Connie have three sons, Andy, Kevin and Pat.



Volunteers Needed for Deer Research Effort...Continued from Page 1

the eastern locale includes DMUs 47, 62B, 63A and 65B centered on Shawano County.

The first question relates to the Sex-Age-Kill model which continues to draw fire as an inadequate method of estimating deer populations. S-A-K has been the standard since the 1960s.

Now, officials want to obtain more rigorous direct estimates of the buck recovery rate. Radio telemetry monitoring will be the primary method used to monitor the bucks over a five year period, beginning during the winter of 2010-2011.

Initially, approximately 100 male deer will be captured and an ear tag applied. Of these, 30 will be fitted with radio collars. Trained volunteers will assist in the capture of the deer using various techniques including box traps, dart guns and helicopter net-gunning. Additional deer will be captured and tagged in subsequent years through 2014.

The second part of the study will involve the capture of pregnant white-tailed deer annually using similar techniques. Deer will be immobilized with an intramuscular injection allowing researchers and volunteers to verify pregnancy using ultrasound.

Each doe will be weighed and all pregnant females will receive a collar-mounted VHF radio transmitter, ear tags, and a vaginal implant transmitter with temperature sensitive switch designed to expel at the birth of the fawn.

Workers will attempt to locate 30 new-



DNR officials and Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates explained the purpose and methodology of the White-tailed Deer Research Project at Deerfest in Oshkosh recently. From left: Research Scientist Chris Jacques, Conservation Congress Vice-Chair Rob Bohman and Congress Delegate Tony Janecek. Photo by Lee Fahrney

born fawns, beginning in May, 2011. Daily monitoring of the implanted transmitters will allow researchers to take note of a change in pulse rate and proceed quickly to the area at the birth of the fawn.

By approaching the area quickly and noisily, researchers hope the instinctive "drop" response to danger will help in locating the animals. Fawns that flee will be chased down on foot and captured with long-handled fishnets. DNR officials note that previous experience with these methods does not result in abandonment or physical harm to the animals.

Both fawns and adult females will be

monitored daily for 30 days post-capture and twice weekly thereafter using standard hand-held or aerial tracking techniques. The deer will be monitored for at least one year to estimate annual survival rates. DNR veterinarians will examine carcasses whose cause of mortality can not be determined in the field.

Hunters are advised to treat any collared deer as just another deer in the woods and shoot it if that fits their need (assuming a legal tag for that deer). "They should hunt as they usually do, but report to the DNR any deer shot that might have an ear tag or radio collar," Jacques said.

Many volunteers will be needed to build deer traps, participate in deer capture, placing radio collars on captured deer, and monitoring survival status and seasonal movements of collared deer.

To register for updates on the project, go to the DNR homepage at www.dnr.wi.gov and click on

DNR updates under the features column, then check White-tailed Deer Research to receive the updates.

If you would like to volunteer, contact:

Chris Jacques at (608) 221-6358 or at christopher.jacques@wisconsin.gov.

Tony Janecek at (715) 745-2492 or at tjanecek@frontiernet.net. (Eastern Farmland)

Mike Riggie at (715) 748-6252 or at mjrdvm@hotmail.com. (Northern Forest)

Kevin Marquette at (715) 526-5147 or at lab1@ezwebtech.com. (Eastern Farmland)

Wisconsin Trappers Prepare for the Best

The Wisconsin Trappers Association is setting the stage for what officials believe will be an outstanding national event, Aug. 5-8, when more than 5,000 trapping enthusiasts will descend on Marshfield for the National Trappers Association Convention.

Despite rumblings of a boycott of the event earlier this year due to DNR involvement with the Humane Society of the

United States, it appears the controversy has only made the organization stronger.

The response from trappers (and other stakeholders) was spontaneous and passionate, which served to unify further a group that works hard at its craft and takes great pride in its identity. The trappers know what it's like to be ostracized by animal rights groups. "We've had a target on our back for

40 years with this group," said Wood County Vice-chair Scott McAuley.

WTA President Virgil Schroeder opined that the controversy may have actually helped. "I've had people say they're coming to the convention to support Wisconsin trappers."

"When we got to talk to people from other states, they under-

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Hunters Network Promotes Mentorship...Continued from Page 3

Know why people hunt: Gene Wensel in his book "Buckskin and Bone" goes beyond the where, when and how of hunting, instead focusing on the "why" of the hunt. Of white-tailed deer he says, "I've come to love and respect these fascinating creatures that have provided me with so much pleasure, challenge, frustration and satisfaction."

Focus on family togetherness: Hunters introduced to the sport by family members hunt more frequently and are more likely to be avid hunters throughout their lives when compared to hunters initiated in some other way. The Hunters Network encourages including the entire family in workshops and recognition banquets.

Welcome non-traditional hunters: As the state and nation become more diverse, the development of programs that connect with different ethnic groups, age groups, and genders to hunting resources will be necessary. Wisconsin already has one of the most diverse hunting populations in the nation, and it is important to recognize the different ways that different groups may become involved.

How to get involved: Take the "Mentored Hunting Pledge." One role of the experienced hunter is to assist another individual in developing the skills, values and sense of camaraderie necessary to carry on our hunting traditions. This pledge asks hunters to commit to mentoring a new hunter within the next year.

To sign up go to www.huntersnetwork.org.



Two happy youngsters enjoy a Learn to Hunt outing at the Rush Creek Sportsmen's Club near Spring Green in Iowa County. The Hunters Network of Wisconsin encourages all sportsmen and women to pass on Wisconsin's hunting traditions through mentorship programs. Photo by Lee Fahrney

Congress Delegates Lead the Way...Continued from Page 2

Dane County Chair Jim Shurts, who serves on the Wisconsin Outdoors Alliance Foundation Board of Directors, was also instrumental in making the Expo a great success.

This tip-of-the-iceberg summary demonstrates the commitment of our Congress delegates to passing on Wisconsin's hunting, fishing and trapping heritage to future generations. Keep up the good work!

Please note the accompanying thank you letter from a student at Hawthorn Hills Elementary School in Wausau. The Congress awarded a transportation grant to the school which enabled the students to attend the Beaver Dam event. There is little doubt the writer will become part of the next generation of hunters in Wisconsin.

Dear Wisconsin conservation congress,

I want to thank you for paying for us to go to the beaver dam Expo. IT was fun. Here are some of the things we did there, we went to that dog hunting thing we got to pet the dogs but we did not get to hunt, then we got to listen to an Elk Sound but it wasn't just an Elk sound this only happens one time I think every year but back to the point the male Elk make a really weird sound and that sound that he is making means he is saying to the ladies to be his girlfriend. Or he is saying back off. Well that's all for now good bye.

Wisconsin Initiative On Climate Change Impacts

By John Edelblute

One of the interesting things about being a Congress member is that from time to time you may be assigned to represent the Congress at a non Congress function. When Chairman Harvey asked me to represent the Congress at a symposium on global warming issues, I said sure, I'll do it. The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, hereafter called WICCI, met twice in 2009, February 21st and September 14th.

The conference was composed of two groups, the Advisory Committee, of which there were 29 members, representing agriculture, forestry, energy, and transportation to name a few representatives interest groups. The Science Council consisted of fifteen members from the University of Wisconsin and the DNR. The function of the Science Council was to advise the Advisory Committee about global warming impacts. The Advisory Committee's function was only to give advice on how we are to cope with global warming and how we thought it would affect our constituents in Wisconsin. We couldn't offer any thoughts about the validity of global warming, or any mitigation efforts. We were told another group is doing that function.

We were told at the first meeting that the climate was getting warmer in the winter, but staying pretty much the same during the summer months. Carbon dioxide, sulfuric acid, and dust in the atmosphere will not allow solar radiation to radiate back into space to keep a temperature balance. You guessed it; the blame is put on mankind and industry. When I and others stated that the earth has had huge climate shifts over its existence, we didn't get much response. The Science Council was pretty firmly entrenched in the Al Gore Camp. That was pretty evident. This was the theme for the first meeting on February 21, 2009.

The September 14, 2009, meeting was far more open and interesting. The presenters were two climatologists from the University of Wisconsin. They laid out a scenario in which Wisconsin's climate would have higher average temperature by 2055. Temperatures along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior would increase about 5.5 degrees. Inland counties would see increases of 6.5 degrees except for Iron, Ashland, Price and Vilas. They are supposed to

go up at least 7 degrees. The climate in Wisconsin in 2055 is supposed to be similar to Missouri's. Trout streams will warm, and the type of vegetative cover will change somewhat. You'll have to decide if that's good or bad? The presenters stated that they were about 90% confident in this prediction based on their computer models.

The real question remains, is climate change real, and what will happen if it is? There are two camps on this: The Al Gore camp which prophecies doom and gloom, flooded coastlines, drought and pestilence, no more polar bears, and the end of SUV's. Then there is the Rush Limbaugh camp which is in complete denial about any climate change. I like to think that reality probably lies somewhere in the middle. It will probably get warmer by a couple of degrees. Remember about ten or so years back we were told we were in between ice ages. Logically it should get warmer between ice ages. Personally I'll take a warmer earth over another ice age any day.

The current mantra by global warming advocates is to free us from automobile exhaust and power plant pollution. Okay, where are we going to get all of the power to charge up batteries for electric powered automobiles? The only feasible long term replacement for coal fired power plants is nuclear power plants. It's not wind mills, tidal generators, solar panels, or the like. The current sources cannot provide all the power needed by a growing, more consumptive society. Nuclear power would solve the carbon dioxide, sulfuric acid, and dust problem. (The global warming disciples would like this.) Someday the United States will catch up with the rest of the world on nuclear power plant building. We lead the world in developing this technology, but because of politics, we cannot put it into use in our own country. The average citizen has no idea of the tremendous advances that have been made in this technology



John Edelblute (right) received the Delegate of the Year Award from Chair Harvey at the 2010 WCC Annual Convention in Lake Geneva. Photo by Kari Lee-Zimmermann.

by our own Lawrence-Livermore Laboratory and General Electric Corp. Unfortunately, while every developed and developing country in the world uses our advanced technology, we cannot overcome the political hurdles to use it here.

The real stickler on this whole global warming issue is we were told that even if we stopped polluting yesterday, the earth would continue to warm up! The reason being given is that we have already pumped an excessive amount of carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the atmosphere. Is this entire global warming issue a matter of liberal politics, and perhaps a quest for funding to study the issue? Is global warming real? Many of us wonder about this. But if it is, and it may be, our trout streams would warm up a couple of degrees. Well, there are always bluegills. Deer would prosper with a warmer northern Wisconsin. That wouldn't be all that bad. Only time will tell. Mankind has adapted to ice ages and warming periods, most of the time without the aid of sophisticated technology. We are better prepared now than we were in the past to cope if necessary. Whatever happens, I am confident in our future.

The Congress should pay particular attention to this global warming issue from here on, and how it may potentially affect our outdoor pursuits.

If you want to learn more the web site is:
wicci.wisc.edu

Wisconsin Trappers Prepare for the Best...Continued from Page 6

stood that it had nothing to do with WTA," he added.

Myths and half truths of animal rights foes and what we can do about it:

1. **Hunting is cruel & unnecessary:**

Hunting is part of nature. Cats hunt; hawks and eagles hunt; coyotes and wolves hunt; so do sharks and salmon. Nature did not forbid humans alone from hunting.

2. **Support us/we save animals:** Ask how? Each year some 10 million cats and dogs are put to death in the U. S. because they have no homes. How do they save animals by killing them?

3. **Trapping is cruel/fur belongs on animals:** Animal rights critics use the term "steel-jaw leg trap" and claim they maim and crush bones to create a false view. The correct term is "live-hold foot trap" because the animals are held by the foot, unharmed and alive. Trapping is highly regulated and the most effective way to control fur-bearers and predators that prey on highly endangered species. Fur is a renewable resource that is better recycled

than wasted.

4. **Meat is murder:** Actually, meat or flesh – whether beef, pork, lamb, chicken or seafood – is nutrition. Is it murder when a fox eats a chicken? Is it murder when a wolf eats a deer?

5. **What we must do:** Farmers, ranchers, hunters, fishers, trappers, pet owners, medical researchers – all of us – must treat all of nature's animals with respect. We must be ethical, moral, and protect and conserve our natural resources. And, we must respond effectively to all efforts to undermine the traditions handed down to us from generations past.



WCC delegate Dan Carroll shows students how to skin a beaver at a trapper education course at Sandhill Wildlife Area near Babcock. Photo courtesy of WTA.

Workers needed at WCC Wall of Fame National Trappers Association Annual Convention Marshfield August 5-7

The WCC educational exhibit will be present at the NTA's convention in Marshfield and workers are needed. Those delegates who are attending and would like to help out with the WCC booth, please contact Kari Lee-Zimmermann at 608.266.2952 or Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov.

WCC, Youth, and the LTH Bear Program

By Rich Kirchmeyer

The Learn to Hunt Bear program is one of those unique opportunities for our youth to enjoy the great outdoors. With many other options to occupy their time, there appears to be fewer of them taking advantage of the outdoor sports that our delegates enjoy and promote.

The DNR, along with many sportsman volunteers, now offer a program that seems to be working quite well. While the LTH Bear program has been around for seven years, it is only during the past three that youth from throughout the whole state have been able to participate. Early on, the program was only open to local youth from the county where the hunt was being held.

Despite the greater scope of the program, the number of youth applying for the program has declined in the past three years from 171 in 2008 to 117 in 2010.

Of the 171 youth who applied in 2008, 27 received permits. Of those, three were

offered through the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (the following year, the Wisconsin Wild Turkey Federation also sponsored a permit). Nineteen bear were harvested in 2008 which is comparable to the state wide harvest success rate.

The hunts were held in areas where a local warden or DNR wildlife biologist was willing to sponsor a hunt. Hunts were held in Bayfield, Douglas, Chippewa, Marinette, Oconto, and Price counties. Fifty-five mentors, out of a possible 140, helped facilitate the hunt.

In 2009, 141 youth applied for permits. Fifty-four permits were issued and 29 bear were harvested. Hunts were conducted in Bayfield, Douglas, Barron, Burnett, Polk, Washburn, Oneida, Price, Marinette, Oconto, Chippewa, and Monroe counties.

In 2010, 117 youth applied for LTH Bear permits. Of these, 49 were chosen to receive a permit. The hunt will take place Aug. 28-

29 in Baron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Polk, and Price counties.

Fourteen individuals applied for the WCC LTH Bear permit this year, compared to 31 last year. There were many good essays written so choosing a recipient for the permit was somewhat difficult. George Bartels from the Hunting with Dogs Committee, Wade Jeske from the Outdoor Heritage Committee, and Rich Kirchmeyer representing the Bear Committee served on the selection committee.

Our lucky recipient for the WCC 2010 LTH Bear permit is Hunter Paplham, a 12-year-old from Kewaunee. He will be hunting in Price County under the guidance of Dave and Gary Mabie, who also mentored last year's permit recipient, Jackson Humphreys.

Dave and Gary, WCC delegates from Price County, go above and beyond the duties of a mentor and make sure the recipient not only learns about bear hunting in general, but also has an enjoyable hunt.

76th Annual WCC Convention held in Lake Geneva

From Ed Harvey's report given to the Natural Resources Board at their May meeting.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 76th annual convention on May 6, 7, and 8, 2010 in Lake Geneva. Our statewide delegation voted on each of the proposed DNR rule changes, and each of the proposed congress advisory questions from the 2010 spring hearings questionnaire.

DNR Rule Change Proposals

The delegation reviewed and registered their support or opposition to each of the questions that appeared as Department rule change proposals. This year, at the Spring Hearings, the public voted on a record number of proposals, ninety-seven in total.

The Bureau of Wildlife Management presented 22 rule change proposals at this year's Spring Hearings. At our convention the Wildlife Program recommended advancing all but one of those proposals for NRB consideration. Question 1 proposed the use of atl atl's for small game hunting, however, since this question was asked, legislation has passed that made this a moot point as it can no longer be done by an administrative code change. Statewide vote was in favor of this new proposal, but the WCC acknowledges the Department's inability to act and therefore approves of their recommendation to not advance. The two wildlife recommendations which the Congress did not approve of were the Department's recommendation to advance question numbers 5 and 6 which related to the participation of 16 and 17 year olds in the youth deer hunt and youth turkey hunt respectively. Question 5 did not pass the statewide vote and was rejected in 39 counties (supported in 31 and tied in 2). Question 6 did pass

the statewide vote and was approved in 36 counties and rejected in 35 (1 tied). Both votes were relatively close (within 110 vote margin) and the delegation did not feel that there was clear support for the advancement of these proposals.

This year Fisheries Management presented 37 rule change proposals for public consideration. Fisheries is planning to advance 30 of their proposals for Board adoption. On May 7, 2010 the Congress voted to support the Department's recommendation to advance 29 proposals that received support at the April 2010 Spring Hearings, and also endorsed the recommendation to not advance questions 25 and 27. The Congress approved the Department's recommendation to advance question 30 with the amended bag limit of 25 fish instead of 10. However, the statewide delegation did not support the Department's decision to not advance question 24 which related to motor trolling in Ashland County, or questions 43-46 relating to walleye and bass regulations in Sawyer County. At their annual convention, the WCC voted to table question 43 and failed to support the Department's position on questions 44-46. In spite of a fairly high attendance, and a fairly decisive vote in Sawyer County, the delegation was not convinced that the

statewide vote should have been overturned, as the department suggested.

WCC Advisory Questions

There were 37 Congress advisory proposals presented for public comment at this year's Spring Hearings. Thirty-one of these proposals were approved by the statewide and county votes, and 29 were also recommended for advancement to the Department and Natural Resources Board for consideration. Six proposals were not supported by the public vote, and consequently, these six proposals were not recommended for further consideration by the Department, Legislature or the Board. Four of the six proposals that were rejected statewide were relating to bear hunting (questions 62, 63, 65, and 66 relating to creating a free weekend to train hounds on bear, allow the training of dogs during the bear harvest season, the use of a backup shooter, and the elimination of a Class B backtag). The other 2 proposals that did not get statewide support were the concept of antler restrictions (question 71) and the opening of the inland trout season (question 88). The two proposals that did pass statewide, but were not advanced by the WCC were question 87, the extension of the inland trout season, and question 93, the removal of trophy muskie designation for



Some of the WCC delegates who received years of service awards at the annual convention in Lake Geneva pose with their certificates and pins. Delegates who have been a part of the WCC for over 15 years received recognition for their dedication to and extensive volunteer hours spent on behalf of conservation. Photo by Kari Lee-Zimmermann.

76th Annual WCC Convention held in Lake Geneva...Continued from page 10

Pelican Lake, Oneida County. The discussion surrounding these questions was that (relating to the inland trout season) it is during the spawning period and the large mature fish would be very susceptible to over harvest and it is thought that it would be too much pressure on an already fragile fishery. And (relating to question 93) that there was too much unconfirmed information forwarded and there were concerns that since the lake is in ceded territory, Native Americans would not have the same restrictions.

Other Business

In 2009, the Congress advanced a proposal allowing bow hunting during the 9-day gun deer season, to the Department for consideration that passed by significant margins on the 2008 questionnaire as an advisory question. The Department supported the idea to take it out for public input and agreed to put that into their 2010 deer package, however, when the deer proposal was pulled, the advancement of that proposal was lost with the package and the NRB voted not to have the Department add it to their side of the 2010 questionnaire to get public feedback. However, the Congress would like to see the Department be allowed to take this proposal out for hearing.

Awards

This year the Congress recognized a number of DNR employees for their outstanding service. Scott Loomans, Wildlife Management, received an award for his dedication and commitment to citizen input by working closely with the WCC. Fisheries educator, Theresa Stabo, received our fisheries award for her contributions to continuing our hunting heritage through her education efforts and the Anglers' Legacy program. Our warden of the year, Jeremy Peery, Rusk County, was recognized for his outstanding law enforcement efforts and work with youth and special hunts. We also honored our Congress delegate of the year, John Edelblute, Washington County, for his contributions over the past year. We handed our years of service certificate and pins to those delegates who have served the con-

gress for 20, 25, 30 and 35+ years. We also took time on this special occasion to recognize four individuals who mentored LTBH youth and other first time bear



Mike Reiter (left) talks with his wife and Ed Harvey, WCC Chair, after accepting the 2009 Educator of the Year Award. Photo by Kari Lee-Zimmermann.

hunters and two others who generously transferred their permits to deserving youth.

The 2009 Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year Award went to Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin, Racine County. The Outstanding Local Conservation Club was the Durand Sportsman's Club and clubs recognized for outstanding achievement by local conservation clubs were Star Prairie Fish and Game and the Stanley Sportsman's Club.

The 2009 Educator of the Year is Mike Reiter, an avid trout fisherman and Congress delegate from St. Croix County.

Officer Elections

On Friday, May 7 our 12 districts elected their 2010-11 Executive Councilors. I would like to thank each of the councilors from 2009-10 that will not be returning this year and also congratulate those that have been reelected. Our Executive Committee, including Rich Kirchmeyer, Price County, Congress Secretary, Rob Bohmann, Vice-Chair, and myself were all re-elected to serve another year.

We would like to thank Chair Ela for his presentation at our convention, and Board member Jane Wiley for attending our meeting. Your involvement and attendance is a testament to your commitment to the role of the Congress as an advisory body to the Natural Resources Board.

Footnote: Due in large part to the WCC's opposition to the Department's initial position taken on 7 questions, the Department's recommendation to the NRB concurred with the WCC's positions taken at the annual convention.

DISABLED HUNT SPONSORS NEEDED!

The 21st annual Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities is scheduled for October 2 - 10, 2010. These hunts are sponsored by private individuals or organizations and almost entirely take place on privately-owned lands. More than 59,000 acres are enrolled in the 2010 hunt, down slightly from the 66,000 acres enrolled in 2009. While the deadline for sponsor applications has passed for this year's hunt, we would like landowners to consider becoming a 2011 disabled hunt sponsor.

If you would like to be a 2011 disabled hunt sponsor, please download an application at the following link:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/HUNT/DEER/DDHunt/disabledapp.pdf> complete and submit to your local wildlife biologist by June 1, 2011.

Please visit DNR's Disabled Deer Hunting web site:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/HUNT/DEER/disap.htm> or contact Linda Olver, at 608-261-7588 for more information.



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76 Years of Conservation

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Wisconsin Conservation Congress Calendar

Please go to:
dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/calendar/ for an up-to-date listing of all Congress meetings and events.

August

- 2 WCC Districts 3 & 8 Mtgs.
- 3 WCC Districts 7 & 11/12 Mtgs.
- 5 WCC Districts 5 & 10 Mtgs.
- 7 CWD Committee Mtg.— Mead Wildlife Area
- 9 WCC Districts 1 & 6 Mtgs.
- 10/11 NRB Mtg.— Superior
- 11 WCC Districts 2 & 9 Mtgs.
- 12 WCC District 4 Mtg.
- 14 Air, Waste, and Water Committee Mtg.— Eau Claire
- 20 Turkey Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point
- Hunting With Dogs Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point
- Habitat Committee Mtg. — Stevens Point
- Upland Game Committee Mtg. — Stevens Point

- 21 Fur Harvest Committee Mtg. — Mead Wildlife Area
- Rules & Resolutions Mtg.— Stevens Point
- 27/28 Mississippi River Committee Mtg.— La Crosse
- 28 Endangered Resources & Law Enforcement Committee Mtg.— Wausau
- Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point

September

- 10/11 Trout Committee Mtg.— Merrill
- 21/22 NRB Mtg.— Wisconsin Rapids
- 25 Great Lakes Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point

October

- 2 Legislative Committee Mtg.— Poynette
- 26/27 NRB Mtg.— Madison

December

- 4 Public & Private Lands Use Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point

- 7/8 NRB Mtg.— Madison
- 10 Bear Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point
- Migratory Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point
- 11 Warm Water Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point
- 18 Big Game Committee Mtg.— Mead Wildlife Area

January 2011

- 7 Executive Council Mtg.— Wausau
- 25/26 NRB Mtg.— Madison

March

- 12 Awards Committee Mtg.— Stevens Point

April

- 11 Annual DNR/WCC Spring Hearings

May

- 12 Executive Council—Wausau
- 13/14 WCC Annual Convention—Wausau